(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have considered the proposal of Andhra Pradesh;

(f) if so, the places which has been considered as tourist centres and tourist attraction;

(g) whether the Government have agreed to provide funds for the development of these areas to attract more foreign tourists to visit these places in Andhra Pradesh; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to open a new Chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in Hyderabad. In view of the constraint in resources, the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been taken up.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. The main points which emerged were :

1. Tourism promotional strategy should include development of tourism product augmentation of accommodation and infrastructural facilities and preservation and beautification of tourist centres.
2. Identification of Regional Travel Circuits.
3. Identification of monuments by the State Governments for development and refurbishment and upgradation.
4. Development of Rail Tourism.
5. Stress on Eco-Tourism and protection of tourist sites from deterioration.

(e) to (h). In consultation with the State Government, the Department of Tourism has prioritised the following projects for Central financial assistance in 1996-97 :

1. Rs. 75 lakhs for additional construction of the Yatri Niwas at Tirupati.
2. Rs. 20 lakhs for the purchase of Boats and Launch for Bhavani Island, Vijayawada.

The Union Government have also identified Hyderabad-Nagarjuna Sagar-Tirupati Circuit for intensive development.

In order to publicise Andhra Pradesh as a tourist destination, the Union Government has brought out publicity literature on Andhra Pradesh and also extended financial assistance to promote various Fairs and Festivals such as Deccan Festival, Rayala-Seema Food Festival and Visakhotsav.

Restrictions Imposed by Doordarshan

1020. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has recently imposed certain restrictions, such as increase in the fees, programme timing etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). No restrictions have been imposed for giving programmes/advertisements on Doordarshan. However, as part of its ongoing activity to rationalise its rate card, keeping in view the emerging market trends, Doordarshan has revised its rate structure of commercial advertisement w.e.f. 15.11.96 enhancing thereby rates in certain categories.

Persons Engaged in Beedi Industry

1021. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of persons engaged in the beedi industry;

(b) whether most of the persons out of them belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and backward clases and women are in large number among them;

(c) whether permission has been given by the Government for manufacturing of small cigarettes in competition with beedis and for the purpose of giving incentives to small cigarette producers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the beedi workers and beedi producers due to small cigarettes; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to avoid such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The estimated number of beedi workers in the country is 42.73 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. A large number of beedi workers belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.

(c) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

Pending Cases with Industrial Tribunals

1022. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 255, dated July 11, 1996 and state :

(a) if the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?